Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

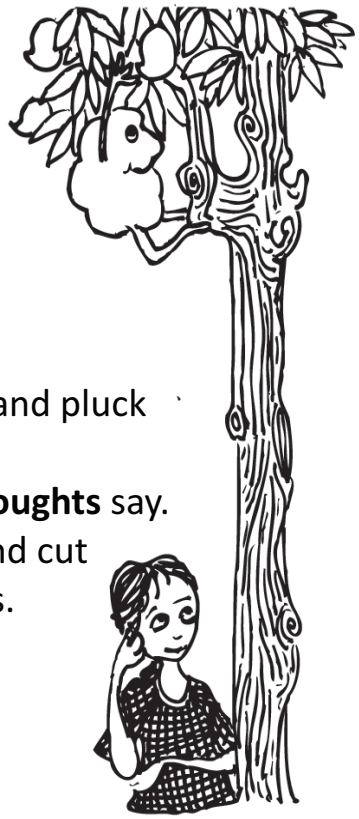
thin	**think**	**thank**
three	**thread**	**thorn**
thumb	**thirsty**	**Thursday**
cloth	**mouth**	**both**
tooth	**breath**	**birth**

Rainy Week

It has been raining since **Thursday**.
I can hear the **thunder** in the distance.
I don't **think** it will stop raining today.
The houses have been filling up with water.
People **throw polythene** bags everywhere.
The naali* near the basti got blocked, and water could not pass **through**. Some people from our basti got together and cleaned the naali.
The water in the houses started slowly draining out.

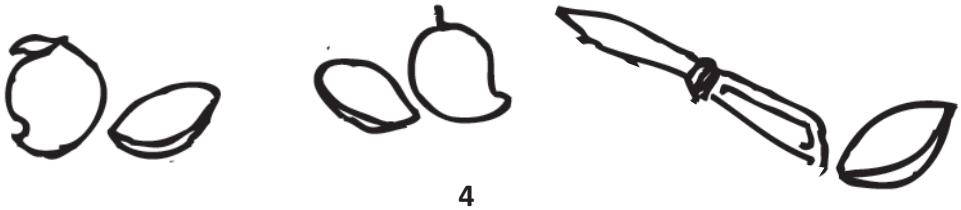
*drain

Thinking or Dreaming



I **think** and **think**.
But **the** sum is difficult.
I can't **think** of an answer.
I close my eyes and **think** hard again.
My **thoughts** climb the mango tree, and pluck **three** mangoes.
“One for Rubina, one for me”, my **thoughts** say.
Then my **thoughts** become a knife and cut the **third** mango into two equal parts.

“One half for Rubina. One half for me”, I **think**.
Brajesh asks, “Are you dreaming or **thinking**?”
I open my eyes and say, “One and a half.”
“How did you get the answer”, Brajesh asks.
“Wait, I will **think** and tell you”, I say.



Nani's threads

Nani* loves to make quilts.
She uses coloured **threads** to stitch old pieces of **cloth** together.
Nani's eye-sight is failing her.
She finds it difficult to **thread** the needle.
She makes Adil **thread** her needle before he leaves for school.
But the **thread** gets used up in an hour.

*maternal grandmother

Yesterday, Nani had an idea.
She got six needles and **threads** of six different shades.
Adil **threaded** all the needles before he left for school.
Now Nani can work on her quilt all day long.

Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

the	**they**	**them**
there	**their**	**this**
other	**together**	**breathe**
mother	**father**	**brother**
weather	**feather**	**leather**

Other another

They have barricaded the New Market area.
Is there any **other** way of going to your house?

I want **another** pencil. The lead on this one keeps breaking.

Please speak to my father and tell him you will drop me back home. **Otherwise**, he will not allow me to come for the baal mela.*

*children's fair

Chilika Lake

There is a big lake in Odisha, called Chilika Lake.
There are more than a hundred villages around **the** lake.
There are many varieties of fishes and birds here.
There is a story that in ancient times **the** lake was a part of **the** ocean.

In 1990, a big company and the government wanted to cultivate more prawns in **the** lake.
The fishing communities and other people in **the** area started **the** 'Chilika Bachao Andalon' to stop them taking over **their** waters.
This struggle was successful, and **the** company had to withdraw.

Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

chin	**chicken**	**cheap**
child	**change**	**chest**
each	**match**	**church**
nature	**fracture**	**furniture**
actual	**century**	**signature**

Geeta and Radha

Geeta is usually **punctual**.
But yesterday, she was late.
The tyre of the bus she was in
got **punctured**. Radha was also with her.
It took an hour for the driver to **change** the tyre.
When Geeta and Radha finally reached school,
the **teacher** scolded them. Geeta felt very bad. But
Radha was not upset.
Radha laughs all her troubles away. That is her **nature**.

What all can you catch

There is a **chill** in the air. Wear a sweater or you could **catch** a cold.

Bittu struck the ball hard. Renu quickly got behind it and took a difficult **catch**.

The last bus leaves in twenty minutes.
If you hurry, you may **catch** it.

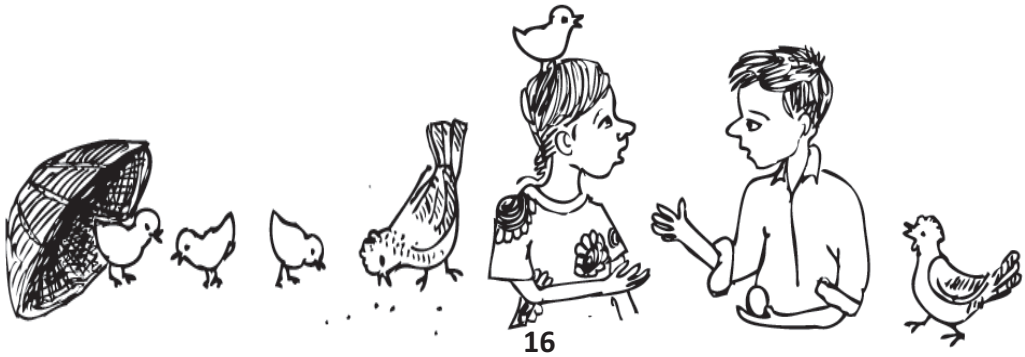
Chintu jumped noisily over the wall into the dumping ground. “Be quiet”, said Bhura. “If the guard **catches** us, he will take away our scrap and **chase** us out.

Chickens and eggs

Chanda wants to breed **chickens**.
"Desi* **chickens** are not easily available. We should breed them. In the beginning, we can sell their eggs at the weekly bazaar", she says.

*local

"How much shall we **charge**?", Chandan asked.
"Not too **much**", **Chanda** says, "A little less than the market rate."
"It may not work", **Chandan** says.
"Let's try it", says Baali, "why be afraid of a **challenge**?"



Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

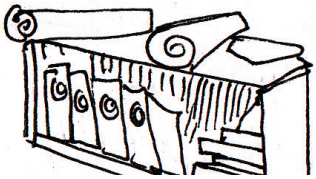
shy	**sheep**	**shout**
shoe	**shiver**	**shampoo**
ash	**push**	**fish**
emotion	**attention**	**station**
permission	**tension**	**admission**

Is Bhola shy

Bhola is very **shy**. When an older person talks to him, he just looks down at his **shirt**.

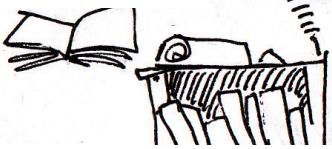
Though he is **shy**, he loves to act.
My mother says that while acting, he is like a **fish** in water.
It comes naturally to him.
His **shyness** abandons him and he becomes the character he is playing.

After the show



Last night, everyone was very tired after the **show**.
We decided to stay back at the hostel and sleep in the library.
Anshu said she would put back the tabla* and the harmonium, and join us.
In the library, Shaheen quickly **pushed** the the tables to one side.
Shilpa helped in **pushing** the book-**shelves** to the other end of the room.

*musical instument



We took the **sheets** out from the trunk and spread them on the floor.
Meanwhile, the others were getting the food ready.
Everyone **shared** the work so it got done soon.
We ate and **rushed** to the library to sleep.
There we found Anshu sprawled on the **sheets**, fast asleep and snoring.

At the station

To,
teacher,

People from different bastis were going to Khandwa for a rally. I too wanted to go with my mother. I wrote an **application** to my teacher asking her for one week's leave from school.

Everyone had decided to meet at the **station**.

We reached the **station** early. There were many people sleeping at the **station**.

It was very cold; I was **shivering**. Some people were sitting around a fire, and singing softly.

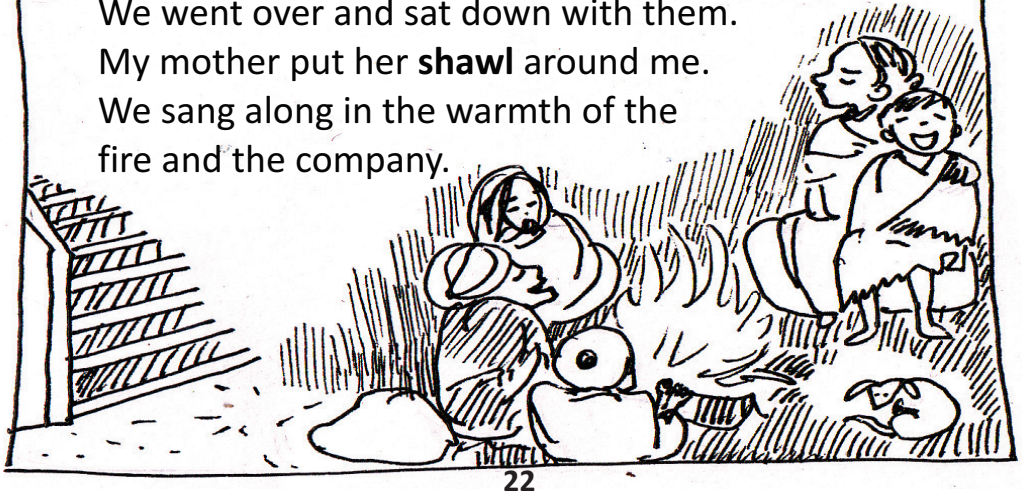
"**Shall** we join them?", I asked my mother.

She smiled and nodded.

We went over and sat down with them.

My mother put her **shawl** around me.

We sang along in the warmth of the fire and the company.



Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

machine	**moustache**	**parachute**
ocean	**electrician**	**musician**
politician	**special**	**delicious**
sure	**pressure**	**assure**
initial	**patient**	**section**

Are you sure

Are you **sure** this is the way to Rahul's house? Last week you made us walk for an hour and we still couldn't find Rehan's house.

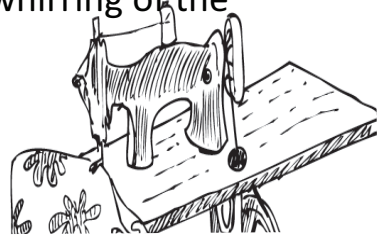
Make **sure** Dadi has the medicine after lunch. The medicine is necessary to keep her blood sugar under control.

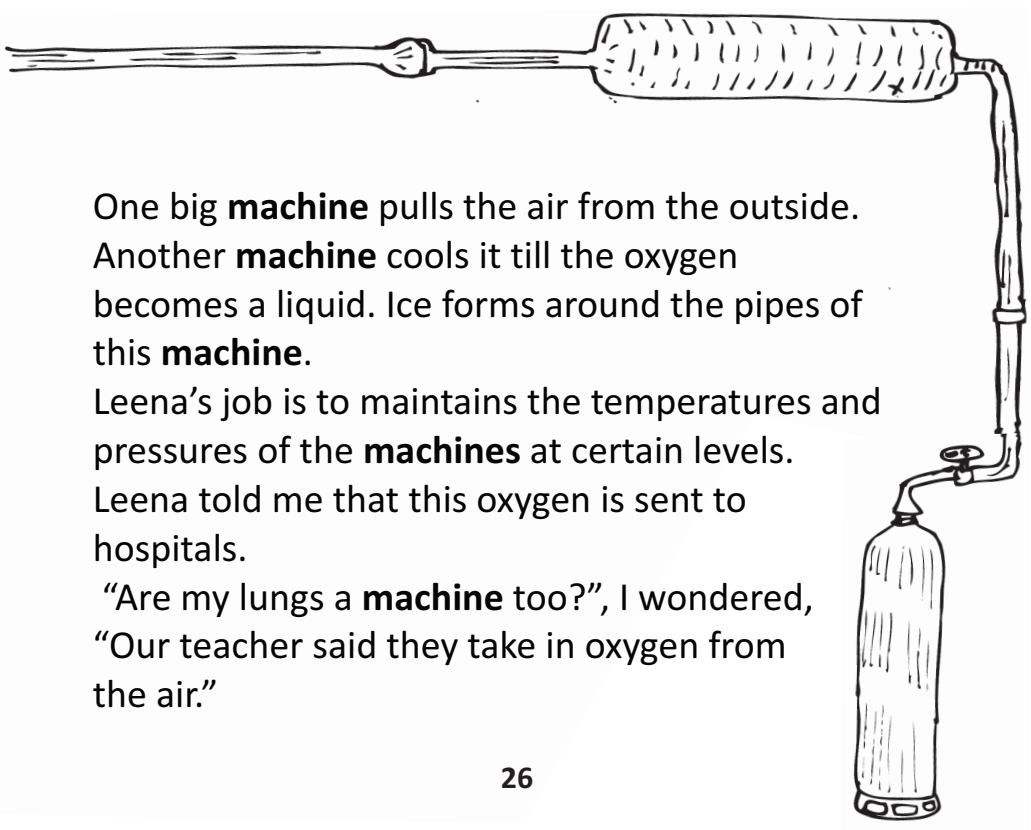
Our costumes are not yet ready for the play next week. Don't worry. Pooja has **assured** us that she will have the costumes ready by Monday.

Machines

Sunita has an old sewing **machine** that she uses to stitch clothes. Even though it is old, the **machine** works very well. She takes great care of her **machine**, cleaning and oiling it regularly.

Leena works in an oxygen gas factory.
Sometimes, Leena takes me with her to work.
There are many big **machines** in the factory.
I like to go with her and hear the whirring of the **machines**.





One big **machine** pulls the air from the outside.
Another **machine** cools it till the oxygen becomes a liquid. Ice forms around the pipes of this **machine**.
Leena's job is to maintains the temperatures and pressures of the **machines** at certain levels.
Leena told me that this oxygen is sent to hospitals.
"Are my lungs a **machine** too?", I wondered,
"Our teacher said they take in oxygen from the air."

Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

measure	**usual**	**casual**
luxury	**exposure**	**closure**
television	**confusion**	**vision**
division	**decision**	**position**
occasion	**invasion**	**explosion**

How long

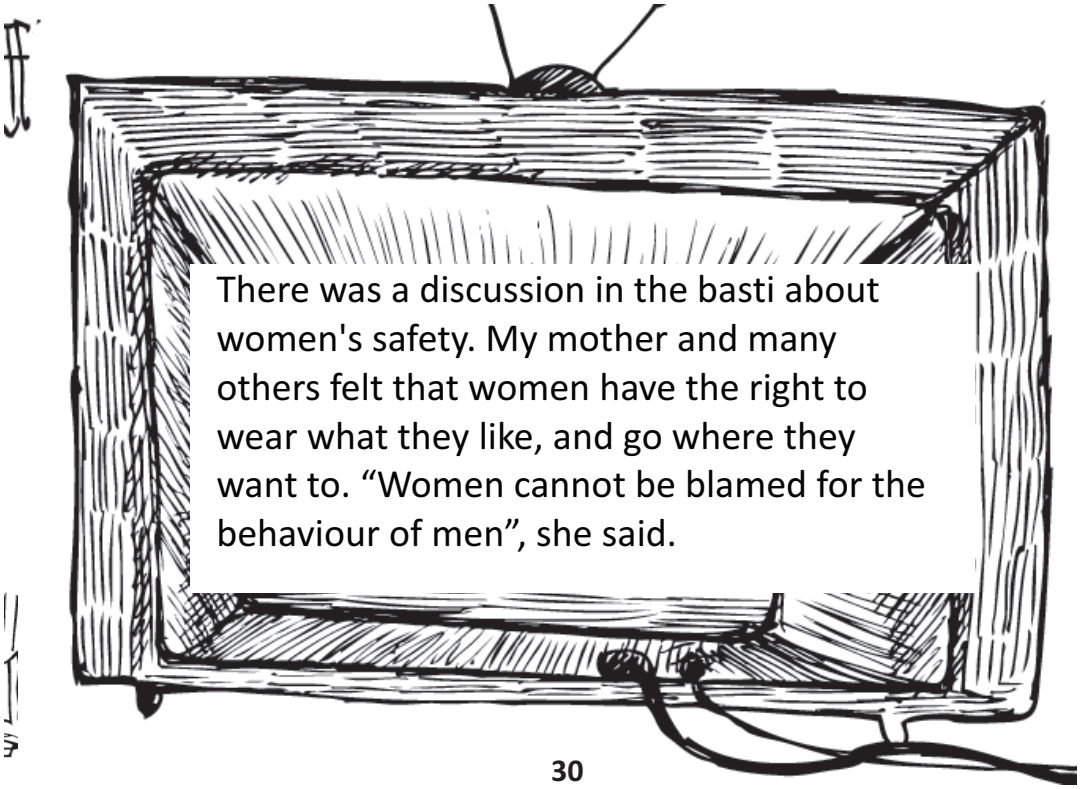
Bano took my **measurements** and then **measured** the cloth. There was not enough cloth. We needed half a metre more for a kurta.*

Hafeez **measured** the length of the wire. He needed to take it till the pole.

*long shirt

News

Yesterday, we all went to Shanti Aaji's house to watch the protests on her **television** .
Thousands of people were protesting at India Gate against the violence on women.
All the **television** channels were showing protests in cities across the country.
“The Government cannot take this matter **casually**”, an angry young woman was saying.



There was a discussion in the basti about women's safety. My mother and many others felt that women have the right to wear what they like, and go where they want to. “Women cannot be blamed for the behaviour of men”, she said.

In school today

It was just another day at school.
First we had our English class.
Then, Shashi taught us **division**.
After lunch, something **unusual** happened.
A dog came into the class.
She was hurt and her leg was shaking.
She was growling at anyone
who tried to go near her.

Maya who is **usually** shy, went to the
dog and spoke to her softly.
The dog allowed Maya to touch her.
Maya held her and gently removed a big
thorn from her paw.
Then she put some tincture
on her wound.

Read these words

What do they mean? What are the sounds in them?

why	**when**	**where**
what	**which**	**white**
whale	**wheat**	**wheel**
whip	**whimper**	**while**
whistle	**whisper**	**whiskers**

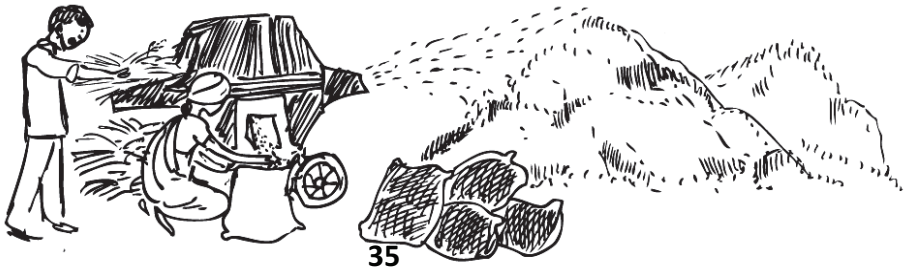
Whisper

The children were speaking in **whispers** in the English exam. “Don't talk”, Prema **whispered**. “The teacher will get angry.”

The guava tree was loaded with fruit. Golu **whispered** to Rahim, "Let's pluck the guavas." Rahim **whispered** back, "I don’t want a thrashing. Let’s not try.”

Harvesting wheat

We went to harvest **wheat**.
The fields had turned golden with the ripe **wheat**.
The big farmer this time hired a harvester to harvest **wheat**.
Only a few of us got work this season in other fields.



We cut and spread the **wheat** stalks on the road.
When vehicles pass over them, the seeds get separated from the stalks.
Vibhu collected the stalks and the husk.
She will feed them to the goats.

Why

Why are only the girls made to clean the class?

Why are some children made to eat separately in the school?

Whenever there is a theft, **why** does the police always pick up children who collect scrap?

Why is Salim always asked if he supports Pakistan in cricket matches?

Why is our land being given to companies?

Why are we always asked to be silent?
Why should we not raise our voice against injustice?

Getting dark

It will be dark in a **while**.
We must leave for home now.
It takes a **while** to cross the stream.
While I can easily find my way through the jungle during the day, I get confused at night.

Will you quickly pack the clothes, **while** I finish making the food?
Where is Lakha? He said he will be back from the market in a little **while**.
Let us wait for him a little **while** longer.
Once he is back, we will all leave together.

This set of 6 books called “Building English Vocabulary” enables a child to

> Develop her/his vocabulary and understand the meaning of key words
> Recognize the written form of key words
> Recognize alphabets phonetically
> Become familiar with the sounds of spoken English
> Begin to respond in English

The first four books of this set can be used in any order. Book 5 and Book 6 should be used after completing the first four books because of the level of difficulty.

The Teacher's Manual provided with the set explains how these books can be used with children. It also discusses the concepts, perspective and rationale behind the development of these books.